THE PHANTOM
GHOST WHO WALKS
#7
MOONSTONE
$3.99
cover B
Mike Bullock
Fernando Peniche

THE PHANTOM™

GHOST WHO WALKS

created by LEE FALK

For those who came in late...

NEARLY 500 YEARS AGO ON A REMOTE BANGALLAU BEACH, ONLY ONE SURVIVED A VICIOUS PIRATE ATTACK.
THE FIRST PHANTOM SWORE A SACRED OATH ON THE SKULL OF HIS FATHER'S KILLER.
...WILL DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF PIRACY, GREED, CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE!
GENERATION AFTER GENERATION FOLLOWED, BUT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, HE WAS ALWAYS ONE MAN... IMMORTAL.
NOW THE 21ST PHANTOM HAUNTS THE NIGHTMARES OF EVIL MEN EVERYWHERE.

"INTERNATIONAL WATERS"

WRITTEN BY **MIKE BULLOCK**
ART BY **FERNANDO PENICHE**
COLORED BY **BOB PEDROZA**
LETTERED BY **JOSH AITKEN**
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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANT **ED RHOADES**

AND TO **KAREN MOY** AT KING FEATURES

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MIDNIGHT.
OFF THE COAST OF SOCOTRA, YEMEN.
KILL THEM.
ATTENTION ON DECK! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST BY ORDERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS!
BRAP
BRAP
BRAP
BRAP
BRAP
BRAP
BRAP
BECAUSE YOU DID NOT HEED MY WARNING, HIS BLOOD IS NOW ON YOUR HANDS!
KOOM
ANOTHER WILL BE EXECUTED EVERY HOUR YOU DO NOT MEET OUR DEMANDS.

WHEN THIS IS OVER, ALL OF AFRICA WILL KNOW MY NAME!
ERASTO IS NOT PLEASED YOU WERE UNABLE TO STOP THE UN...
HE SHOULD THANK ME FOR REASSIGNING THE OTHER TWO FRIGATES TO KENYAN WATERS.
YOU SAID YOU WOULD CALL OFF THEIR DOGS, CARDENAS!
AND YOU WOULD RISK EVERYTHING BY KILLING UN SOLDIERS? ARE YOU MAD?
TEN YEARS! TEN LONG YEARS AND YOU WOULD THROW IT ALL AWAY!
RETURN TO YOUR POST, IMAN.

URK
SPILL YOUR GUTS, OR I'LL SPILL YOUR BRAINS. WHAT'S YOUR CAPTAIN AFTER.
I-I-I-
TELL ME!

OKAY! OKAY!
SLAVES! THE SHIP IS CARRYING SLAVES!
I DON'T KNOW. DON'T KILL ME!
WHERE?
CAN'T HAVE YOU SOUNDING AN ALARM. THE CURRENT WILL TAKE YOU TO SHORE BY MORNING.
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GET IT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH.
WOOOOOOOP! WOOOOP! WO
ERASTO! IMAN IS IN THE WATER, SOMEONE'S TOSSED HIM OVER!

IS THIS SOME SORT OF DOUBLE-CROSS, CARDENAS? I SHOULD SMOKE YOU RIGHT NOW!
PUT THAT AWAY, ERASTO! DO YOU THINK SHOOTING ME WILL CHANGE THE FACT YOUR MISTAKE IS JEOPARDIZING A BILLION DOLLAR REVENUE STREAM?
MY MISTAKE?! WHERE IS THE UN 'RESCUE SHIP' YOU PROMISED?
IT WILL BE HERE WITHIN THE HOUR. THEN WE CAN MOVE THE CARGO TO HER AND YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE FREE TO STAY HERE AND KILL AS MANY UN SOLDIERS AS YOU PLEASE.
HOWEVER, YOUR INDISCRETION COMPLICATES THINGS. I'M CONFIDENT YOU'LL HAVE NO PROBLEMS PAYING THE NEW COSTS FROM YOUR SHARE OF THIS LOAD?
WHY WOULD I DO THAT? I CAN SIMPLY TAKE THEM TO MOGADISHU AND UNLOAD THEM ON THE BLACK MARKET.
AND FURTHER ANGER THE CARTEL? YOU TRULY ARE MAD!
LUAGA, AS YOU SUSPECTED, THIS ISN'T JUST ANOTHER GRAB FOR RANSOM.
I'LL ENACT PROTOCOL TANGO IMMEDIATELY.
RIGHT!
BLAM!

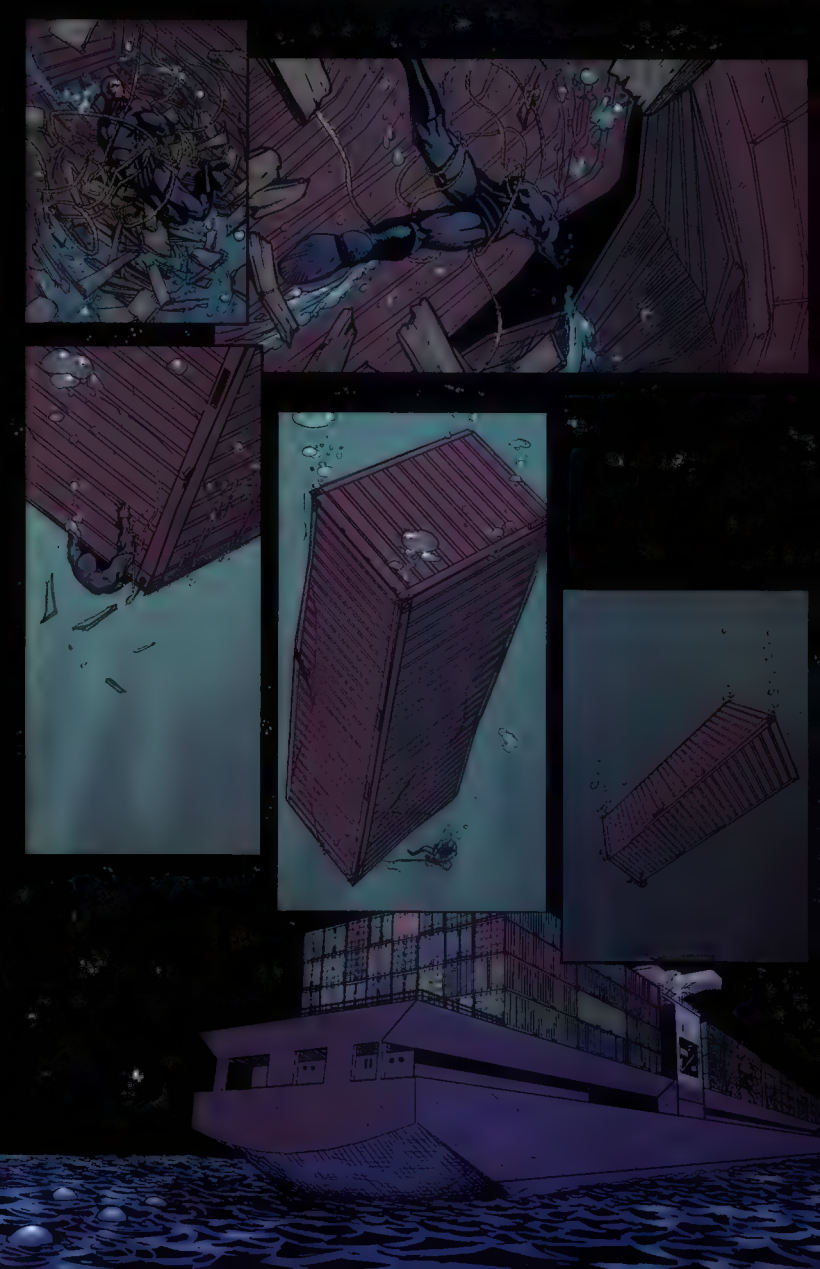
GOOD SHOT, CARDENAS.
I-I'VE NEVER HAD TO FIRE A GUN BEFORE.
HA! WE'LL MAKE A MAN OUT OF YOU YET!
GO TOSS THE BODY OVERBOARD.
MAYBE IT FELL IN HERE, GOT CAUGHT IN THE RIGGING OR SOMETHING?
DO YOU SEE IT?

TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE, THE CARGO, OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SCREAM ON THE WAY DOWN.
:GASP: THE CHILDREN?
"CHILDREN?" THE SLAVES ARE CHILDREN? SINCE WHEN DO SOMALIAN PIRATES DEAL IN CHILD SLAVERY?
YES. :GASP: CONTAINER FIFTY-SEVEN! THEY ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE CARTEL. SWEATSHOP LABOR IN THE FAR EAST!
DON'T SHOOT! DON'T SHOOT!
SON OF A JACKAL!!
ERASTO LED US TO THE :GASP: WRONG SHIP! THAT IS WHY CARDENAS IS SO ANGRY WITH HIM!

57
57
TABAN! TAKE THREE MEN AND-
57
IF CARDENAS PUT YOU UP TO THIS, I'LL SKIN YOU BOTH ALIVE!
HE DID-
NOT SO FAST, MASKED MAN.
ENOUGH!
KRAKK

I'M TELLING YOU, ERASTO, I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MAN BEFORE. WHY WOULD I HATCH SUCH A PLOT WHILE I WAS ONBOARD?
YOU HAVE A POINT, BUT HOW DID HE SURVIVE YOUR SHOT?
MY GRANDFATHER TOLD TALES OF A GHOST, A MAN WHO CANNOT DIE. WHO HAUNTS ALL OF AFRICA. A MAN MARKED BY THIS SIGN OF DEATH
AND EVEN NOW, THE CHILDREN SPEAK OF A GHOST WHO WILL COME TO THEIR AID
AND, YOU THINK THIS IS THAT MAN?
YES
YOU ARE BOTH INFANTS! THIS "GHOST" YOU SPEAK OF IS JUST A BEDTIME STORY, TOLD TO SCARE LITTLE BABIES WHO WON'T DO AS THEIR TOLD!
STRAP THIS ON SO THAT THE NEXT TIME YOU SHOOT SOMEONE, THEY'LL STAY DEAD
NOW IT'S TIME THIS "GHOST" HAUNTED THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA!

GREEEEE
HURRY, THIS INTERRUPTION HAS TAKEN TOO MUCH TIME ALREADY!
NOW YOUR "GHOST" WILL BE ANOTHER REEF FOR THE FISH
SPLASH
KAWOOSH!
CRASH
HUSH



GAH!
WE ARE THE UNITED NATIONS, HERE TO OFFER OUR AID
WELCOME, MY FRIENDS!
DO NOT LET THEM MOVE UNTIL I GIVE THE ORDER

GREETINGS, CARDENAS. I SEE YOU'VE HAD A BIT OF A BUMPY ROAD, AS IT WERE
IS THIS THE MAN WHO CAUSED US THESE DELAYS?
I'LL-
THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME, CARDENAS?

YOU'RE DEAD, CARDENAS!
BRRUP
BRRUP
BRRUP
NO! LOOK! THE GHOST!
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
CHILDREN, WITH ME!
BRRUP
BRAP
YOU'RE HIM! YOU'RE THE GHOST WHO WALKS! YOU REALLY HAVE COME TO SAVE US!
YOU CAN HIDE, CARDENAS, BUT I ONLY HAVE TO HIT YOU ONCE!
BAMMOOM

CLOSE THE DOOR AND WAIT IN HERE. I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU WHEN IT'S SAFE
TING
TING
TING
BANG
LET THE SOLDIERS FIGHT! I CAN SLIP BACK ONTO THE FRIGATE AND WAIT FOR THE CARTEL TO CLEAN THIS MESS UP.
...
IF YOU REALLY ARE A G-GHOST. Y-YOUR GHOST GUNS WILL KILL YOU!

WHY-?
SHMAK
NEVER POINT A GUN AT THE PHANTOM, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT TURNING THE SAFETY OFF.
BY THE AUTHORITY OF HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND, YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO STAND DOWN!

NOW, YOU WILL ESCORT US TO THE UN SHIP AND LET US LEAVE PEACEFULLY, OR YOU'LL BE PICKING UP THE PIECES OF THESE CHILDREN FOR YEARS
NEVER THREATEN THE PHANTOM!
THIS IS THE ONE WHO STARTED THE GHOST STORIES. ONE MORE STEP AND HE DIES FIRST.
PICK YOUR NEXT WORDS CAREFULLY, BOY, THEY'LL BE YOUR LAST.
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO HIM.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, I'LL FIND YOU. AND WHEN I DO-

I'LL DRAG YOUR CORPSE BACK TO HELL.
I'LL-
NEVER POINT A GUN AT THE PHANTOM

BLAM
DIE!
AHHH!
CUR!
BLAM
RAAAHHH!

WHOOF!
I'LL KILL YOU!
IF THAT BOY DIES, YOU'LL WISH YOU HAD
WHACK
KRUNCH

OVER HERE!
BLIMEY!
ARE YOU OKAY, LADDIE?
HE SAVED US! THE GHOST SAVED US!
HE'S ALIVE, BUT BARELY
ERASTO! CARDENAS LADDOG.
WOULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT ON GOD'S GREEN EARTH HAPPENED HERE?
NEVER POINT A GUN AT THE PHANTOM

RIGHT ARREST THIS MAN AND GET THESE CHILDREN SOME BLANKETS AND WARM FOOD
WE HAVE IT SIR! THIS IS THE LEAD WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR TO CRACK THE CHILD SMUGGLING RING!
AND WHERE, PRAY TELL, DID YOU FIND THIS LITTLE MORSEL?
IN THE STRANGEST OF PLACES, SIR.
IT'S CARDENAS. HE WAS JUST LYING THERE, WITH THE DRIVE ABOUT SIX INCHES IN FRONT OF HIS NOSE.
I ALWAYS KNEW YOU HAD A STENCH ABOUT YOU, CARDENAS
The End

together again for the first time...maybe...
THE PHANTOM
CAPTAIN ACTION
2 issue series this Spring!
on going saucy crime from NY TIMES best- selling author NANCY HOLDER!
Domino Lady

BEHIND THE MASK

By Ed Rhoades

The Phantom's Presence in US Comic Books

Demographics of Phantom readership can be misleading. Lee Falk once bristled at a suggestion from a radio conversation that his comic strip only had a following outside the country of his birth. Lee mistakenly believed I was the person making that claim in an interview conducted by an Australian radio station. This erroneous belief resulted in me receiving a scolding letter for spreading misinformation. I explained it was an opinion that I neither expressed nor shared.

I've read the Phantom comic strip since my childhood and growing up both of our local newspapers carried it. The one I subscribe to even carries the dailies in color. However, I have wondered if the Phantom has a weaker presence in urban areas. None of the New York City or Philadelphia papers carry the strip. When I went to the junket for the 1996 Billy Zane film, for which they gave tickets to reviewers, they also gave passes to kids to make sure the audience would have some younger viewers. As I stood in line, I overheard children asking their parents, "Daddy, who is The Phantom?" In my hometown, no child would need to ask that question.

Unlike Tarzan, the other jungle adventure character, The Phantom didn't have a foothold in the worlds of the big screen or Television. There was the 1943 Columbia serial and two syndicated animated series showing a Phantom of the future, as well as a few rare cameos, but no real penetration in those areas. In fact, nothing had any lasting effect until 1996 when the Paramount film and the A&E Phantom Biography came to life. Of course the promotion also included behind the scenes specials for cable channels like "Making of the Phantom" and various clips.

Golden Age US Phantom Comics

The first US Phantom comic, Feature Book 20 was the reprint of the beginning of the first Phantom newspaper story, "The Singh Brotherhood." In those days, comics were compilations of collected newspaper comic strips. Although this issue and the following one Feature Book 22 were dedicated to Lee Falk's creation, often comic books carried a few pages of various popular comics. Later both King Comics and Ace Comics did the same carrying a number of comic strips with a few pages from Phantom stories. There were other Phantom comics to follow including more Feature Books, Harvey Comic Hits and Harvey Hits, but they also carried reprints of the newspaper strips. These, however, were in color and were severely edited to fit the comic book format.

Silver Age and Beyond

It wasn't until Northwestern Publishing put out seventeen Gold Key comics with beautifully painted covers (most by the late George Wilson) that readers had a chance to see something not available in newspapers. These comics had interiors with new art by Bill Lignante, but fifteen of them were still remakes of Lee Falk's newspaper stories. Then King Comics published eleven entirely new Phantom stories. (King #18-28) before Charlton took over skipping issue #29 There are all kinds of stories about the lost comic, but they began with issue #30 and went to # 74. (Most were less detailed stories with less popular art by Pat Boyette) and at least four of those were simply reprints of Italian Phantom comics from as much as ten years earlier.

So, of the forty five comics they published, no more than forty one were actually exclusive-to-comic book Phantom stories. When their publishing days ended, they had the longest run of US Phantom comics and for the most part the strongest issues were a few that Jim Aparo drew and the later ones Don Newton drew.

As far as prose books in the US, there was an excellent hardbound book Son of the Phantom, a string of fifteen Avon paperbacks and a new Avon paperback in 1996 that was an adaptation of the Paramount movie.

Pacific Comics Club did fifteen issues that were reprints of the newspaper strips.

Marvel Comics did three series. The first was four Defenders of the Earth comics (I also have photocopies of the never released 5th Defenders of the Earth Comic). Then Marvel did a more modern three part mini series about the son of the current Phantom. Followed by a four issue series about a future Phantom called Phantom 2040

DC Comics produced a four issue miniseries of their own before publishing an ongoing series that ended at #13, featuring excellent stories written by Mark Verheiden

Then Manuscript Press did a number of reprints of collected comics strips and issue 27 had a full Sy Barry story and an excellent Lee Falk interview, and they're still doing them, but they're all newspaper strips... nothing new except for a handful of original art for Phantom covers.

Pioneer Press did a beautiful series of newspaper reprints, but again nothing original. There were a few other reprints of newspaper strips in continued form.

Moonstone's Contribution to US Phantom History
When it comes to innovation and generating new Phantom material, Moonstone has done more than any other US publisher. They have nearly doubled the previous original story output from those who came before. Their ongoing list includes:

5 - short graphic novels (The Singh Web, Ghost Killer, The Hunt, Treasures of Bangalla, "Valley of the Golden Men" These featured beautifully painted covers by Joel Naprstek)
26 - issues of Phantom volume I, their first ongoing comic book series
2 – Annuals (The first one had a unique story involving five different Phantoms by five different creative teams all solving parts of the same puzzle. The second annual featured the first US comic book team up with Lee Falk's other creation Mandrake the Magician.)
4 - Short comic stories (back ups or part of anthology comics)
7 - published issues of new ongoing series, The Phantom: Ghost Who Walks, #7 being what you're currently holding in your hands.
3 - longer original graphic novels (Phantom: Legacy; an expanded origin tale told from the first Phantom's point of view. Law of the Jungle and Man-Eaters, an unusual tale told from an assassin's viewpoint)
17 - Phantom Chronicles #1 prose stories
15 - Phantom Chronicles #2 prose stories
1-team up short story included in the Domino Lady prose anthology.
6 - issues of Phantom: Generations, with a projected series length of twenty-one issues
1 - issue of Phantom: Doubleshot KGB Noir, with a projected series length six issues
1 - issue of Lady Phantom, the first and only original comic book story of Julie Walker.

Beyond that, Moonstone currently has in production: The Phantom: Unmasked - a two issue miniseries by Eisner Award Nominee, Martin Powell.
And Phantom Action, featuring the first ever comic book team up of The Phantom and Captain Action in a two issue by Mike Bullock.

In addition to the impressive list, Moonstone has also provided readers with varied presentations including two reprints of popular Graham Nolan Sunday strips, more outstanding painted covers by fan favorite artist Doug Klauba, the first US Phantom comic cover by legendary Phantom artist Sy Barry, and some innovations like a comic with computer generated graphics, simulated pages from the actual Phantom Chronicles, detailed character descriptions and prose issues devoted to each Phantom.

Publisher, Joe Gentile explains Moonstone's endeavors, "We have been a vigilant caretaker of the legend, always keeping his integrity intact. Trying to tell great stories without sacrificing what makes the Phantom such a wonderful character. Getting the Phantom into new markets, reaching new readers, and keeping the awareness-factor of this character high."

With these accomplishments, Moonstone's place in Phantom history is already secure.

coming soon!

AIRBOY and the AIRFIGHTERS RETURN!

The all new Sky Wolf, Iron Ace, Flying Dutchman, Black Angel, Bald Eagle, Flying Fool...& the dramatic return of CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT!

JULIE WALKER is: THE PHANTOM

an untold tale of the only female Phantom by 2-time Bram Stoker Award winner Elizabeth Massie!

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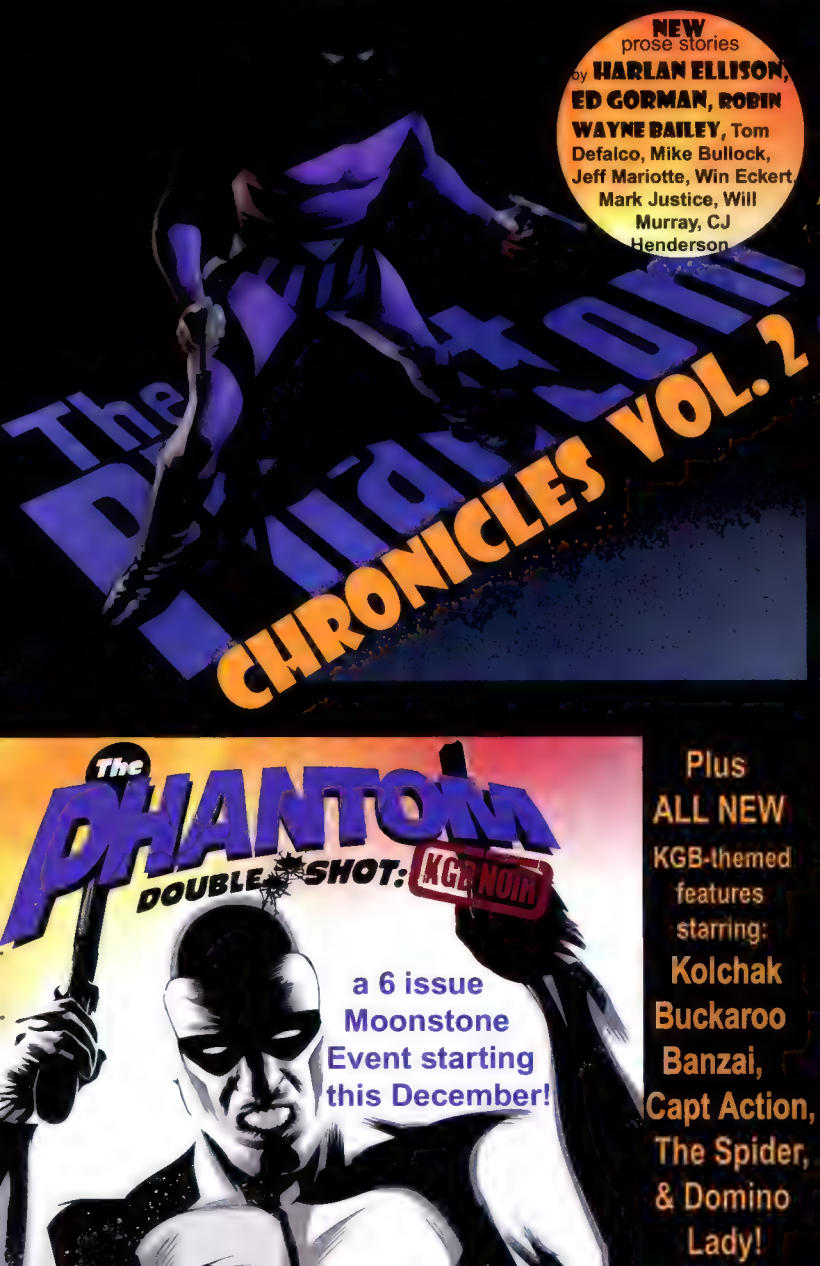
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prose stories
by HARLAN ELLISON, ED GORMAN, ROBIN WAYNE BAILEY, Tom Defalco, Mike Bullock, Jeff Mariotte, Win Eckert, Mark Justice, Will Murray, CJ Henderson
The Phantom
CHRONICLES VOL. 2
The PHANTOM
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Plus ALL NEW KGB-themed features starring: Kolchak Buckaroo Banzai, Capt Action, The Spider, & Domino Lady!

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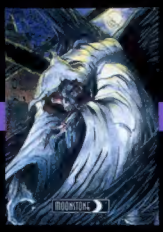

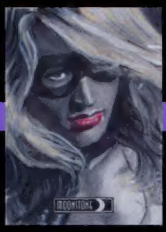

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